

# Some Facts About The "Geography" of Happy Canyon

Noted Town Was Established to Provide Evening Entertainment for Round-Up Visitors. Recalls Scenes of the Olden Days.

"You bet!" That's exactly what you do and that's why it's the slogan and the mouthword of Happy Canyon.

Where is Happy Canyon? The maps, encyclopedias and atlases may fail to define the location of such a place but anybody who attended the 1914 Round-up or who is present at this year's festivities can tell where it is, what it is and when it is. And they'll get some real pleasure in the telling of it, too.

Happy Canyon, literally speaking, is the institution which the people of Pendleton have provided for the entertainment of the huge crowds

which gather for her great frontier show and it is located right in the business section of the city.

Happy Canyon came into being to fill a real need. The Round-up was attracting thousands of people here annually from all over the west and was giving them an afternoon full of thrilling fun, but it was not giving them any evening enjoyment. For the first four years of the Round-up's existence, the district fair to a limited extent offered some of the visitors a way in which to pass away the time. The theaters, of course, entertained many others but there was still a great crowd left on the streets

with nothing to do but mill around. Last year when it became known that the district fair would suspend, the business men of Pendleton decided that some substitute must be found and, as long as a substitute was necessary, they decided that the substitute should be better than the original. Happy Canyon was the result.

At a Commercial Club meeting the matter was thoroughly discussed and it was unanimously decided to originate a new kind of entertainment that would be a fit and proper supplement to the Round-up. Not many years ago Pendleton was a rough, wide-open frontier town, full of hell and hilarity, and it was just naturally decided to resurrect a few of the pastimes that once flourished here and offer them in harmless form to the seekers for new sensations.

The old fair pavilion was secured and soon hammers and saws were noisily busy in creating a replica of the old frontier town of the western plains. One side of the pavilion was taken up for the seats for the audience and on the other side was built the "town." A "street" led through the middle and the audience at the first entertainment was fronted by a row of store fronts bordering this street.

Rough, weather beaten lumber was used in building these fronts and the effect was to recall those pioneer towns with which history and romance are so rich. Signs painted in primitive free hand were stuck up on these buildings and each proclaimed the individuality of the shack. For instance there was "Stagger Inn," "Spender's Bank," the "Log Cabin Saloon," the old jail, the blacksmith shop, livery barn, general store, How Ling Li Kell's laundry, the millinery store and all other institutions that flourished in those days of a real wild west. East of all there were built the "Red Dog Saloon and Gambling Palace" and the big dance hall. In the former roulette wheels, faro banks, crap games and every gambling device known to the frontiersmen were installed and the largest dancing floor ever built in Pendleton was constructed back of it with a tented roof.

The idea took like wildfire. Soon people were talking of Happy Canyon like they were of the Round-up and the first night, the Wednesday preceding the opening of the Round-up, saw such a jam of humanity crowding for entrance that the committee was almost in despair. Between the first and the second nights the seating capacity was increased and many spectators were escorted into the buildings of the "town." Still all could not get in and, from a standpoint of safety, the doors had to be closed.

The festivities of Happy Canyon were opened with a program of an hour in the street. All of the features of the program blended with the scene. There was a cowboys' and cowgirls' quadrille, the riding of bucking horses, the practice of the town band, the rescue of roomers from the burning hotel by the volunteer fire department, vocal solos sung from horseback, Indian war dances, stage holdups and most thrilling of all, a real steer fight that would make a Mexican bullfight look tame.

Following this program the crowd was turned loose in the town and the real fun began. The "Red Dog" and the dance hall were filled to overflowing in a minute. Everybody gambled. The spirit of chance was in the air. Of course they didn't place real money on the games, for modern civilization frowns upon such practices, but they bet with the only medium of exchange in Happy Canyon, the Ten Buck bank notes issued out of "Spender's Bank."

In the huge dancing pavilion the festivities lingered latest. Hundreds of couples joined in the giddy masquerade and those who hesitated were swept in. It was a democratic dance. Cowboys swung society dames and everybody was jolly with his neighbor.

So complete was the success of the Happy Canyon entertainment that the committee in charge began planning immediately for a similar entertainment on a larger scale for the 1915 Round-up. There have been many alterations made in the past few weeks but the general effect is the same. The "Red Dog" will accommodate more people and there are more seats and better light for the preliminary show.

Those who are serving on the committee in charge this year are practically the same as last year. President Joe V. Tallman of the Commercial association, is the mayor of Happy Canyon and his council is composed of the following business and professional men: J. Roy Bailey, Frederick Steiner, Lee D. Drake, J. F. Robinson, W. L. Thompson, George A. Hartman, Jr., C. K. Cranston, Mark Patton, Harry D. Gray, Roy Alexander, Dr. Guy L. Boyden, Dr. M. S. Kern, Clarence S. King, Merle R. Chessman, George C. Baer, Osmer E. Smith, Royal M. Sawtelle, and Dr. D. N. Reber.

All serve without pay just as the Round-up directors serve without pay. The various departments of the work are divided among them, some having charge of the program, some of the barrooms, some of the side attractions, some of the financial end, some of the publicity and others attending to still other features of the big show.

Happy Canyon was a gamble last year but it proved a financial success. The surplus was placed by the Commercial association into a sinking fund to be used later in the furnishing of new Commercial club rooms and, if there is any surplus this year, it, too, will be used by the Commercial association for purely municipal work.



A Popular Round-Up Star, Art Acord

## HOW ABOUT IT COWBOY?

A friend of California's congressman, William Kent, who is reputed to have talked himself into congress by his happy choice in the matter of topics, was consulted by a friend of his who was going down into Texas and New Mexico on a hunting trip and expected to spend some time at a cattle ranch. Knowing Kent's insight into the tastes of every variety of human, the friend asked:

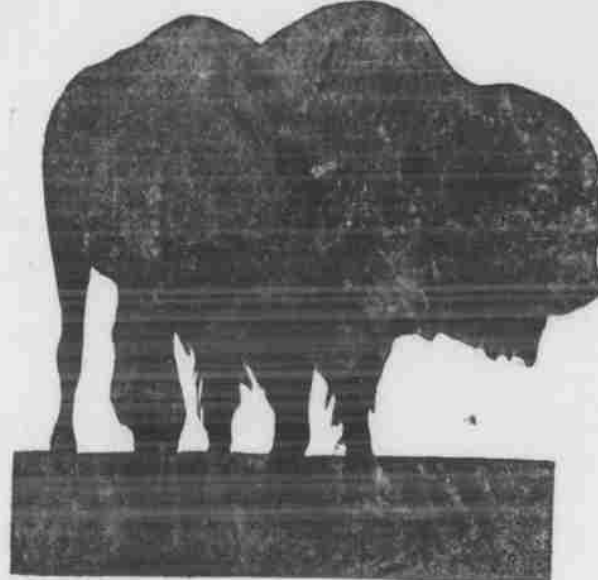
"How'll I get in good with those cowboys yonder in those states?" Without hesitation, Kent said: "The quickest and surest way to win their esteem is to discuss the relative merits of the different kinds of overalls. Another way is to go into the question of single or double girth on a saddle; but the overall proposition

is best. There are two leading brands each of which has its strong adherents in the southwest."

"Which brand shall I plug for?" asked the friend.

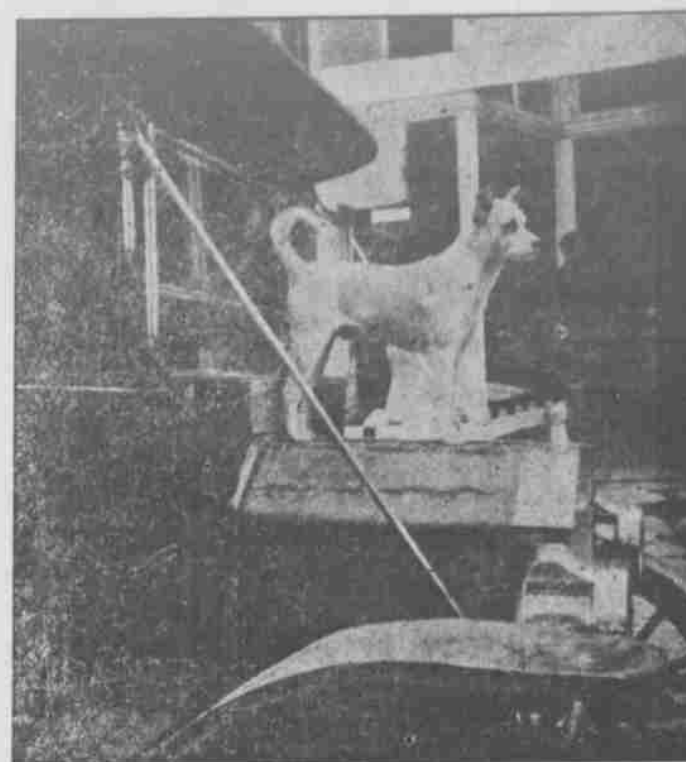
"That doesn't matter," declared Kent. "Just discuss them. Show intelligence on the subject. The cowboys do not mind an honest difference of opinion on overalls so long as one is conversant with the subject."

Arthur M. Geary of Portland, representing the big auction fruit houses of the east, addressed the farmers of the east end of the county during the month to interest them in the question method of disposing of their crops.



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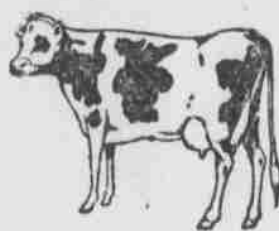
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